

Assembly Constitutional Amendment

No. 4

Introduced by Assembly Member Villines

December 4, 2006

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 4—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by repealing and adding Section 1 of Article XXI thereof, relating to reapportionment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACA 4, as introduced, Villines. Reapportionment.

The California Constitution requires the Legislature, in the year following the year in which the national census is taken at the beginning of each decade, to adjust the boundary lines of the senatorial, Assembly, congressional, and Board of Equalization districts in conformance with specified standards.

This measure would repeal these provisions and instead require the Independent Citizens' Commission on Redistricting, to be comprised of an unspecified membership, on or before February 1 of the year following the year in which the national census is taken, to adjust the boundary lines of the Senate, Assembly, congressional, and State Board of Equalization districts in conformance with certain standards, prioritized in a certain order consistent with specified federal law.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

- 1 *Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring,* That the
- 2 Legislature of the State of California at its 2007–08 Regular
- 3 Session commencing on the fourth day of December, 2006,

1 two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, hereby
2 proposes to the people of the State of California, that the
3 Constitution of the State be amended as follows:

4 First—That Section 1 of Article XXI thereof is repealed.

5 ~~SECTION 1. In the year following the year in which the~~
6 ~~national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the~~
7 ~~beginning of each decade, the Legislature shall adjust the boundary~~
8 ~~lines of the Senatorial, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of~~
9 ~~Equalization districts in conformance with the following standards:~~

10 ~~(a) Each member of the Senate, Assembly, Congress, and the~~
11 ~~Board of Equalization shall be elected from a single-member~~
12 ~~district.~~

13 ~~(b) The population of all districts of a particular type shall be~~
14 ~~reasonably equal.~~

15 ~~(c) Every district shall be contiguous.~~

16 ~~(d) Districts of each type shall be numbered consecutively~~
17 ~~commencing at the northern boundary of the State and ending at~~
18 ~~the southern boundary.~~

19 ~~(e) The geographical integrity of any city, county, or city and~~
20 ~~county, or of any geographical region shall be respected to the~~
21 ~~extent possible without violating the requirements of any other~~
22 ~~subdivision of this section.~~

23 Second—That Section 1 is added to Article XXI thereof, to
24 read:

25 SECTION 1. (a) On or before February 1 of the year following
26 the year in which the national census is taken, the Independent
27 Citizens' Commission on Redistricting shall adjust the boundary
28 lines of the Senate, Assembly, congressional, and State Board of
29 Equalization districts in conformance with following standards.
30 Consistent with the provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act of
31 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1971 and following), those standards shall be
32 prioritized according to the following order:

33 (1) Each member of the Senate, Assembly, Congress, and the
34 State Board of Equalization shall be elected from a single-member
35 district.

36 (2) Each Senate district shall be comprised of two whole and
37 complete Assembly districts. Each State Board of Equalization
38 district shall be comprised of 10 whole and complete Senate
39 districts.

1 (3) Districts of each type shall be numbered consecutively
2 commencing at the northern boundary of the State and ending at
3 the southern boundary.

4 (4) The population of all districts of a particular type shall be
5 reasonably equal.

6 (5) Every district shall be geographically contiguous and
7 compact.

8 (6) The geographical integrity of any city, county, or city and
9 county, or of any geographical region, shall be respected to the
10 extent possible without violating the requirements of any other
11 paragraph of this subdivision.

12 (7) A maximum number of districts shall be drawn that provide
13 for competitive elections between major political parties.

14 (8) District boundaries shall respect communities of interest to
15 the extent practicable.

16 (b) Party registration and voting history data shall be excluded
17 from the mapping process, but may be used to test maps for
18 compliance with subdivision (a).

19 (c) The Independent Citizens' Commission on Redistricting
20 charged with adjusting the boundary lines of the Senate, Assembly,
21 congressional, and State Board of Equalization districts shall be
22 comprised as follows: ____.

23 (d) The district boundaries established pursuant to this section
24 shall go into effect commencing with the statewide primary election
25 next following the adoption of the final maps by a ____ vote of
26 the Independent Citizens' Commission on Redistricting.